

State Representative F. Dale Grubb

Helping Hoosier Families

113th Indiana General Assembly, Spring 2004

Session Report



Saluting
the Flag



Protecting
Children



Job
Creation





113th General Assembly Ends

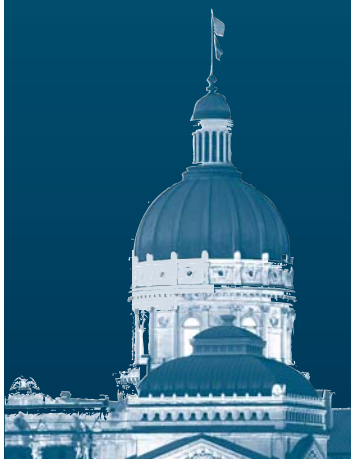
Dear Friends,

The 2004 short session of the Indiana General Assembly has ended. I have detailed several important pieces of legislation in this newsletter, including children's safety issues and fighting drug and alcohol abuse.

I hope you find this information useful, and I will keep you updated over the next few months on other legislation that should have a positive impact on you and your family. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about state government.

Sincerely,

Dale Krubbs



Saluting the American Flag

As we all continue to support our troops who are stationed around the world, as well as working hard here at home, I am proud to see so many flags on display in homes and businesses. I recently came across a listing of rules regarding flag display and decorum which I thought you might appreciate.

- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

- When a flag is so worn that it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.



- The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously.

- The flag should ordinarily be displayed only between sunrise and sunset; it should be illuminated if displayed at night.

- The flag is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is longest.

- To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart, and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over heart.

- The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting. When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note. The salute should be held through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.

It is important to remember we are Americans first and displaying our flag during these times shows unification in our support of the troops and our country.

Additional Bills Passed

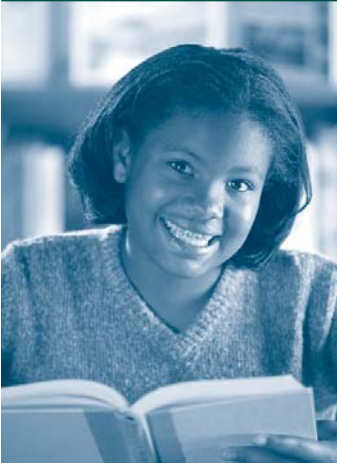
There were several other significant pieces of legislation passed by the General Assembly. House Bill 1029 will allow a custodial parent to bring a court action to **recover delinquent child support payments** by intercepting the state income tax return of the parent responsible for the obligation.

House Bill 1229, called The Indiana Homeowner Protection Act, places **tougher restrictions on the practice called predatory lending**. Homeowners will be protected from overpriced loans with unreasonable terms that often are impossible to pay back, placing people at risk of losing their homes through foreclosure.

House Bill 1449 will help **restore the constitutionality of Indiana's curfew law** by including provisions that protect minors who are exercising First Amendment rights.

House Bill 1178 will allow courts to create a program **permitting volunteers to become advocates for seniors**. Probate courts will be allowed to appoint trained and supervised volunteers to serve as guardians for a limited time to incapacitated or protected elderly who are at-risk inpatients in health care facilities in Indiana.

Helping Hoosier Families



Protecting Children

Legislators Address Safety Issues

During the 2004 session, several bills were passed to help the safety of children.

Legislators passed bills to protect children from abuse and neglect.

- **House Bill 1194** will provide tools to protect children from abuse or neglect. Criminal history checks will be required for each person who resides in a home in which a child is to be placed before the child is placed there.

Child Protective Services (CPS) reports may now conclude if abuse or neglect is "indicated," as well as "substantiated" or "unsubstantiated." There will be an additional public disclosure in cases where a child dies as a result of abuse or neglect. A statewide group will be created under the bill to investigate

the sudden and/or unexpected deaths of children.

- **House Bill 1245** will levy tougher penalties against people who neglect a child who ends up dying as a result of the crime. The bill will increase the penalty for neglect of a dependent to a Class A Felony if the neglect results in the death of a child.

Penalties will be increased for contributing to the delinquency of a minor if a person 21 years or older provides alcohol or a controlled substance to a minor, and the consumption of that alcohol or drug is determined to cause a death of any person.

- **Senate Bill 194** will provide added protections for all children in a home where abuses have taken place.

Fighting Drug, Alcohol Abuse

Lawmakers spent a lot of time this session trying to come up with real solutions to the problems brought on by the abuse of drugs and alcohol throughout Indiana. Among the most prominent concerns was the new wave of production and use of methamphetamine sweeping through the state. Criminals favor this drug because of its low cost, simple manufacture and easy accessibility. Another major problem the legislators resolved to face was the occurrence of drunk driving on Hoosier roadways.

House Bill 1136 creates a task force to combat the production, distribution and use of methamphetamine in Indiana. The task force will suggest specific actions to lessen the demand and decrease the supply of meth, improve the enforcement of meth laws, and evaluate the success of programs in other states to make recommendations for improving local, state and federal laws regarding meth in Indiana.

House Bill 1264 is aimed at keeping drunk drivers off the road. It requires an ignition interlock system, which works by screening a driver's breath in order to start the vehicle, be installed in a repeat offender's vehicle. The system will detect if a driver attempts to start the vehicle by circumventing the breath test. The car horn will activate and continue to sound until the vehicle is shut off. The system will then lock the auto down for a predetermined period of time.

House Bill 1394 charges anyone 21 years of age or older with a Class B felony for causing the death of another person while operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In addition, anyone who operates a vehicle under the influence, and with at least one passenger under the age of 18, will be charged with a Class D felony. Anyone with two convictions of causing death while intoxicated and operating a vehicle will have their license suspended for life.



Representative F. Dale Grubb meets with a group of high school students who visited the chamber of the House of Representatives during a tour of the State Capitol.

Helping Hoosier Families



Representative Dale Grubb (right) discusses legislation on the floor of the House chamber with Representative Alan Chowning.

Contact
Representative
F. Dale Grubb
District 42

Statehouse
200 W. Washington
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Online
H42@in.gov
www.in.gov/H42

Creating Hoosier Jobs

Protecting and creating Hoosier jobs was among the issues of most concern in the 2004 General Assembly. Three bills and a resolution were passed that will aid in the retention and creation of jobs as well as encourage business development and corporate responsibility.

House Resolution 47 calls on the president and Congress to address a growing trade imbalance that has resulted in the loss of more than 2 million manufacturing jobs in the U.S. since 2001. It asks that **trade agreements require that corporations pay fair and competitive wages**, respect the rights of workers, and adopt workplace safety and anti-pollution standards equal to those in our country. The resolution also encourages the federal government to **provide economic incentives to sectors that have seen record job losses** due to NAFTA, and address the adverse effects on trade caused by countries that artificially lower the value of their currency relative to the dollar.

House Bill 1080
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House Bill 1080 will help **stimulate Indiana's economy** by providing a price preference to Indiana businesses for public works and procurement contracts. This piece of legislation will focus on Indiana companies first as suppliers for goods and services the state is interested in purchasing.

House Bill 1434 **will benefit low-income businesses by fostering economic development opportunities** by providing grants for training and technical assistance. The microenterprise partnership program created under the bill will provide assistance to businesses with fewer than five employees.

House Bill 1365 will make the state's research and development tax credit permanent, extend the life of the Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit and create a new fund to encourage investment in new technology. It also calls for a study of **eliminating corporate tax loopholes in current Indiana law** that cause tax increases on Hoosier homeowners and businesses.

Representative F. Dale Grubb

Indiana House of Representatives
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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